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A SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE Waters at *Glaſtonbury*; Together with An impartial Account OF *The Effects thereof* IN A VARIETY of CASES.

In a Letter to a Lady.

By a diſintereſted CLERGYMAN, not at all obliged to the Inhabitants, nor in the leaſt concerned in the Intereſt, of that Town.

EXON:

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To Madam .....

MADAM,

YOUR ingenious Queries, Doubts, and Scruples, about the Virtue and Efficacy of *Glaſtonbury* Waters, and the Politeneſs and Accommodations of the Place, are ſuch as I can, by no Means, pretend to reſolve to your Satisfaction; much leſs would I take upon me to determine you, one Way or other, for or againſt going to *Glaſtonbury*. However, that I may aſſure you of my Readineſs to oblige you, as far as I am able to do it, I do here preſent you with the beſt Informations that I have been able to procure in the Thirteen Days that I have ſpent here.

The Spring-Head, or *Bloody-Well*, lies on the North Side of the Hill on which the *Torr* ſtands, not more than Fifty Paces from the Foot of the Hill. The Well is about Seven Foot deep, in which are ſeveral

Springs, ſome whereof taſte very much of a Mineral (of what Sort is not yet agreed upon), and others taſting very little of any. And it is called the *Bloody Well*, becauſe it gives a *reddiſh* Tinge to the Stones lying in the Gutter at its firſt breaking out from under Ground, about Fifty Paces from the Well itſelf; tho' the ſame Water does not in the leaſt alter the Colour of the Stones at Three Score Paces farther down. Over the *Bloody Well* there has been lately a large Houſe built, deſigned, as I am informed, for a Pump-Room.

At the Diſtance of Fifty or Sixty Paces from the *Bloody Well* there is another Spring, of a ſtrong Mineral, of the ſame Quality, as far as is yet known, with that in the *Bloody Well*; and near about the ſame Diſtance from that a very fine Spring, of ſoft common Water, runs out of the ſolid Hill. Both the laſt-mentioned Springs riſe at the Foot of *Torr-Hill*, on the North Side of it; all which Waters, together with another ſmall Spring of common Water, meet at about Six Score Paces, more or leſs, (for I ſpeak by Gueſs) from their ſeveral Springs, at a Shoot near a Publick-Houſe on one Side of the Highway, and run together by the Side of, or parallel to, the common Road, before, perhaps, Twenty or Thirty Houſes, for a Furlong or more; and afterwards traverſe Two or Three Meadows, and ſome

Part

Part of the South Side of the Abbey, and then fall, partly into a Bath lately made, and partly into the Highway, at the Shoot near *Chaingate*, at the Entrance into the Town from *Street*.

The Water at *Chaingate*, notwithſtanding any Filth that may run into it from the Highway and Dunghills lying near the Courſe of it, or thrown into it from the Houſes before which it runs, is very often pretty clear and well-taſted; but you cannot find, by your Palate, any of the Mineral in it. And the next Shoot, as you go to the *Bloody Well* from the Town, near the Publick-Houſe, is always clear, and taſtes very plainly of the Mineral; but not ſo much as the firſt Shoot, between that and the *Bloody Well*, where it breaks out firſt from under Ground, and tinges the Stones.

Now, theſe Differences in the Waters at theſe ſeveral Places cauſe a good deal of Doubting and Uncertainty in thoſe that go to *Glaſtonbury* about the moſt beneficial Place to drink the Waters, ſome drinking it near the Spring-head, others (and that the greater Part) at *Chaingate*, and others drinking it ſometimes at one Place and ſometimes at another. But I think, as ſufficient Experiments have not been yet made to find out the Nature of theſe Waters, that Facts and Obſervations on the Effects of it ought to determine the Place of drinking

king it; and that People ought therefore to begin to drink at *Chaingate*, about the Half of a Pint in the Morning, and ſo much in the Evening, becauſe almoſt all the Benefit that has been hitherto received by this Water has been received by thoſe that drank it at *Chaingate*; and the Water there is not, whether it happens to have a purgative or a reſtringent Effect, ſo violent in its Operation as it is when drank near the Spring-Head.

If drinking a Pint a Day ſhould not happen to purge, People, in general, increaſe the Quantity gradually to near a Quart a Day. And where it happens to operate pretty ſtrong, the Quantity ought to be leſſened, and, perhaps, the Drinking it intermitted for Two or Three Days.

It is drunk ſometimes for a Week, and ſometimes for a Fortnight, without any Effect at all; and ſome drink it 6 or 7 Weeks without purging at all; and ſome People are ſick, and ſome are very well, under the Operation of it; and I am told, but am not certain of the Truth of it, that it hath purged one or two very violently ſome Weeks after drinking it. However, as the Nature of it is not yet known, and it is impoſſible to foreſee what Effect it may have in Time upon different Conſtitutions, it would be prudent not to drink it in great Quantities, as ſome do, and more eſpe-

cially

cially conſidering that thoſe that received the greateſt Benefit from it hitherto drank it ſparingly, perhaps not above a Pint a Day; and ſeveral of them drank only Half a Pint every Sunday Morning, for Seven Sundays. Indeed a great many People, perhaps the greater Part of thoſe that are ſtrong and hail, drink a Quart every Day at leaſt, without finding any immediate Effect from it, ſome at the Shoot near *Chaingate*, and ſome in the Shoot next the Spring-head; and others drink it in the Morning at *Chaingate*, and in the Evening near the Spring-head. The Mineral, it is true, is ſtrongeſt there; but there is a great deal of Room to think, tho' it be not yet accounted for, that the Virtue of theſe Waters proceeds from the Compoſition, there being, as ſome think, ſome Salts in the Springs which paſs for common Water, and it may poſſibly receive ſome additional Salts from the Rubbiſh in the Abbey, or from a ſmall Spring which ſome tell you is conveyed to it before it reaches *Chaingate*, through the Abbey: But all that is quite uncertain; and all that is actually known is, that a great many have received ſurpriſing Relief from drinking it, and waſhing in it near *Chaingate*.

People ought never to drink it while they are hot with Riding or Walking; and, perhaps, no body ought to bathe before they drink

drink it for a Week; and no doubt of it but moſt People would do well to go into the Bath after drinking it for ſome Time, if their Diſorders and Conſtitutions can endure it, about which they ought to conſult their Phyſicians; and it would be very ſafe, as I imagine, to take ſome gentle Purges before they drink the Waters at all, if they can afford it.

However, thoſe that uſe it at *Chaingate* without any Benefit, for a Month or ſo, ſhould try it near the Spring-head, at the firſt Shoot, where it tinges the Stones. And this I think ought to be done in all Manner of Complaints, when the *Chaingate* Shoot fails to do them Service. Thoſe People that have Films or Pearls over, or ſtrong Humours in, their Eyes, may poſſibly receive Benefit here when *Chaingate* Water can do them no Service; and Water taken immediately from the ſtrongeſt Spring in the *Bloody Well* ought to be try'd, after all the reſt have failed. I have known ſome Eyes to bear it; but it is apt to inflame the Eye; for which Reaſon, I think, it ought not to be tried till all other Places have been tried without Effect. The beſt Method of waſhing the Eye is to hold a Tea-Cup, or ſome ſuch Thing, up cloſe to the Eye, full of Water, ſo that the upper Laſh may reach the Water, and work it into the Eye, by opening and ſhutting the Eye pretty faſt.

I obſerved that moſt People that have any *Eruptions*, *Scurvies*, *Leproſies*, *Scurf-Heads*, *Wounds*, or *Ulcers*, and a great many that had the *King's-Evil*, but not near all under that Complaint, received very great Benefit from drinking, and waſhing in, this Water; which ſeems to agree with moſt *Conſtitutions* and *Habits* of Body, and cleanſes and heals *Ulcers* after a wonderful Manner: But I could not meet with one Inſtance of a *White Swelling* in the *Knee* cured; nor yet any *Paralytic* much benefited, tho' here are many under thoſe Complaints; but am informed that there have been here ſome Inſtances in the *Palſy*, *White Swelling*, and the *Gout* itſelf, much relieved; but as I do not know theſe to be Fact, I lay no Streſs upon them, much leſs would I relate them for Truth. Probably if People bathed enough for the White Swelling they would find Relief: But I have known one Inſtance of a Paralytic's bathing for a little while without any Effect. As he ſtill continues to bathe, I do not know what may happen. Rheumatic Pains, in ſeveral Perſons, have been very much relieved.

As to the Politeneſs of the Place, I beg to be excuſed from giving it any Character, that being a Province belonging to thoſe that have ſeen more of the World, and are of a more refin'd Taſte and Judgment than I can boaſt of. But, with humble Subniſ-

ſion to the Worſhipful the Mayor and Aldermen, and the Ladies of the Town, I make no manner of Doubt but that, however polite they may poſſibly be already, they will yet be much more ſo by the Time you have been among them Seven Weeks; and I could almoſt be bold enough to promiſe you that, as ſoon as you appear here, the *Dung* and the *Nuiſances* will be remov'd from the Streets, that you may meet with as few Things as poſſible that may be offenſive to you. I am likewiſe in Hopes that the Poor that reſort hither will ſoon be put under proper Regulations, that ſuch as are charitably inclined, like yourſelf, may not be too much importuned and impoſed upon by *Mumpers* and ſuch ſturdy Beggars as are no probable Objects of Cure, to the great Detriment of others that are real Objects of *Cure* and *Compaſſion*; and I can't help wiſhing, that in covering the Water from the Spring to *Chaingate* they would not, by any Means, keep out from it any Thing that formerly ran into it, becauſe it is certain that the whole Compoſition, however diſagreeable it may be to the Eye, hath had a ſurprizing Effect; and it is not as yet known to what Part of the Compoſition that Effect is owing.

And, as to the Accommodations of the Place, here are ſeveral very good ones. Mr. *Pratt* the Attorney has a very good Houſe well furniſhed, and takes Boarders; the

Rev.

Rev. Mr. *Pratt* takes Boarders; Mr. *White* (the Mayor), Mr. *Card*, Mrs. *Maſters*, Mrs. *Baſſet*, Mr. *Rock* the Apothecary, with ſeveral others, board Strangers in a genteel Manner, moſt of them not exceeding Half a Guinea a Week.

Now that I may do every Thing in my Power to aſſiſt you to form a Judgment of the Virtues of the Waters, and determine whether you or any of your Acquaintance, under any Complaint, had beſt ſet out for *Glaſtonbury* or not, I ſhall here preſent you with a Variety of real Caſes, ſet down, not in Terms of Art, but, for the moſt Part, juſt as I received them from the Peoples own Mouths, excepting very few which I have taken from other People of undoubted Veracity. For which Reaſon, and the little Time I had to do it in, you are not to expect Correctneſs and Propriety, but be contented if you can but pick out the Meaning thereof; and excuſe me, perhaps, for ſome few Caſes which are expreſſed juſt as the People imagined them to be, and not as they were in Fact, eſpecially about the Diſlocation and Setting of the Hip, which I do not at all underſtand; and you will be likewiſe ſo good as to pardon me, if you ſhould find hereafter that I am miſtaken, or ſomewhat impoſed upon, in the State of ſome of the Caſes; which is almoſt impoſſible to be avoided, more or leſs; becauſe ſuch as have really found ſome Relief are ſtrangely

inclined to magnify both the State of their Complaint and the Benefit they have received from uſing the Waters; for which Reaſon I have been very much upon my Guard, and have paſſed by many Caſes not atteſted to my Satisfaction; and left a great many under a great Variety of Complaints (who declared themſelves, ſome much better, others in a fair Way as they thought) quite out of my Collection.

The CASES.

Matthew Chancellor, the Dreamer, made his Affidavit on *May* 31. 1751. that he was perfectly cured of an Aſthma of almoſt Thirty Years ſtanding, by drinking *Glaſtonbury* Waters.

I ſaw this Account in a Regiſter of ſome Affidavits of Cures done by the Waters, and have had the ſame from his own Mouth, whom I ſaw ſeveral Times, particularly one Morning early at the Shoot, after having walked Ten Miles the Day before; and, notwithſtanding ſome Suggeſtions to the contrary, he is in a very good State of Health, ſleeps with Pleaſure, purſues his Affairs without Pain, and is no *Roman Catholick*, as he declared to me.

Iſrael Batt, of *Wells*, made an Affidavit that he was perfectly cured of a *Fiſtula in ano* of Eleven Years ſtanding; of an *Ulcer* in his Cheek of the ſame ſtanding; of a violent *Rheumatiſm* and *Aſthma*; and that he

he was alſo reſtored to his Hearing, Taſte, and Smelling, which Senſes he had been deprived of for Eighteen Months. It is thought that he exaggerates hisCaſe and the Cure; but be that as it will, it is certain that he received very great Relief from the Waters. I examined him myſelf, and found him as hail, and looking as well, as moſt any Man of his Age; and he aſſured me that he had an *Impoſthume* ſomewhere in his Head, which ran out in great Quantity at his Noſe, which he believed to be in a fair Way to be cured, but would not make it a Part of his Affidavit, becauſe it was not yet a Cure.

Grace Clement, Daughter to the Clerk of the great Church at *Glaſtonbury*, having been reduced very low, as ſome thought in a *Conſumption*, is recovered by the Waters.

A Son of Mr. *Stibbons*, of *Glaſtonbury*, aſſured me, and I was informed by ſeveral other People, that he had had an *Aſthma* of about Twelve Years ſtanding; who is now very well recovered by *Glaſtonbury* Waters. *N. B.* There is no doubt of his having been reduced very low by the *Aſthma*.

Mary Chiſwick, of *Glaſtonbury*, aſſured me that ſhe got an Illneſs in Childbed above Seven Years ago; that ſhe had been ſo low in it that her Death had been expected for ſome Time; and that ſhe is reſtored to perfect Health by drinking the Water.

James Bartlet, Sexton of the Great Church at *Glaſtonbury*, Eighty Years of Age, after many Years Infirmity, is, without any Manner of Doubt, recovered to a good State of Health, by drinking the Water here.

John Peiream, of *Butleighwootton*, a Houſe-Carpenter, was crippled Four Years ago by a Fall and a Fever; had Part of the Head of the Thigh Bone quite broke off; and by uſing *Glaſtonbury* Water the Fleſh opened Seven Inches below the Bruiſe, the broken Part of the Bone came out, and the Wound healed up. It is ſaid that he works now at his Trade, of which I enquired of the Rev. Mr. *Hood*, who knows him very well, and who told me that he knew nothing of his working, but that he lately met him bearing a Pail of Milk upon his Head.

Cornelius Caſtle, of *Sharpham-park*, near *Glaſtonbury*, aſſured me that one of his Legs had been ſcalded Twenty Years ago, and that a ſtubborn hot Humour broke out in it; and that he is now in a fair Way to be cur'd. He drank the Water Three Weeks without purging; but upon drinking more plentifully than uſual on a *Sunday* Morning, he began, Three Days after, to purge violently.

John Coby, from near *Norwich*, aſſured me that he had had a very great Weakneſs in one of his Thighs for twenty three Years; that he had been in an Infirmary in *London* for Six Weeks, without any Benefit; and

that

that he found himſelf much relieved by drinking the Waters in a few Days. I have ſeen him for Six or Seven Days ſince my firſt Examination, and found that by drinking and bathing he recover'd Strength very faſt; and he declared to me every Time I met him, that he was better and better ſtill.

The Rev. Mr. *Hood* aſſured me that a Woman from *Baltonsbury* was perfectly cured of an *Aſthma* and *Dropſy*, of ſome Years ſtanding, by *Glaſtonbury* Waters.

J. Aſhley aſſured me that he had the *King's-Evil*, and that he was much better by uſing the Waters.

James Rice, from *London*, was cured, as he himſelf informed me, of a violent *Rheumatiſm*, by the Waters, without purging.

James Rice, from *Bath*, told me that he had a ſtubborn hot Humour about him, and that he found much Benefit from the Waters, without purging.

Mary Philips aſſured me that ſhe had had the *King's-Evil* for Eight Years, and an *Aſthma* for ſome Time; and that ſhe was greatly relieved in both Complaints by the Time ſhe had drank the Waters for 5 Days

Mary Mountain informed me that ſhe had had great Pain in her Hip for Fourteen Years; that ſhe drank the Waters for Fourteen Days without purging, and afterward purged much; and that her Pain was then removed to different Parts of her Body; the outſide of her Hip, where the Pain had been,

been, being quite eaſy, and her Strength and Spirits recovering very faſt, by the Waters in Six Weeks.

Mrs. *Fuſſel*, of *Glaſtonbury*, took an Oath that ſhe had been perfectly cured of an *Aſthma* & *Dropſy* of many Years ſtanding, by which ſhe had been ſo enfeebled as not to be able to go out of her Houſe for Years. I waited upon Mrs. *Fuſſel*, and ſhe inform'd me that her Complaints had been very grievous for Twelve Years; that ſhe had not been able to walk to the Court Gate for the laſt Eight Years; that notwithſtanding Two Windows that were open, ſhe had been frequently carried in the Night Time out into the Court for Air, in violent Fits of the *Aſthma*; that ſhe was carried to the Shoot for Six Sundays, and was able to walk thither the Seventh Sunday. She is now very capable of purſuing her domeſtic Affairs, ſleeps with Pleaſure, and walks abroad without Pain.

Walter Price, from *Briſtol*, informed me, that a Fever, which he had three Years ago, fell into his Leg, which broke out in a ſtubborn briny Humour in his Ankle; and that he had found great Benefit from the Waters in a Month's Time. *N. B.* I ſaw him ſome Days afterward, and was told by him, that his Leg was broke out again, being angered as he imagined, by his ſtanding upon it too ſoon, to make Hay for Two or Three Days.

The

The Rev. Mr. *Gold* informed me, that a Servant of his Father had been cured, by the Waters, of a King's-Evil of Fourteen Years ſtanding, which Servant had had a great many Holes in his Thighs and Legs.

Mrs. *Lovegrove*, from *Baldwin-ſtreet*, in *Briſtol*, aſſured me, that ſhe was ready to make Affidavit that ſhe loſt the Uſe of all her Limbs in *September* 1749, her Hands and Fingers being greatly contracted or lamps'd, having great Pits in the Back of her Hands, her Complaint having proceeded from her Loins to her lower Parts, and thence to her higher Limbs; that ſhe had been ſo low as to be nurſed, fed, and helped in all Reſpects for Eight Months by a Tender; that ſhe had received ſome Relief at *Bath* in her lower Limbs, but none at all in her upper Parts; that ſhe purged much by *Glaſtonbury* Waters for Three Weeks, but did not purge at all now in her Fourth Week; and that ſhe is perfectly reſtored to the Uſe of all her Limbs. I ſaw her Hands quite plump and pliant, and met with her a Week afterward, which was her Fifth Week here, and ſhe ſhewed me her Hands very well, and aſſured me that ſhe had received a perfect Cure; of which there can be no manner of Doubt with me, becauſe I had heard of her before I ſaw her, and ſhe appears like a Woman of ſome Faſhion.

Mrs. *Widdows*, of *Wells*, informed me, upon her own Knowledge, that *James Garſey*'s Son, of *Wells*, had been actually cur'd

of the *King's-Evil*, at the Shoot near the *Bloody Well*, after he had drank the Waters at *Chaingate* without Effect.

She likewiſe aſſured me, upon her own Knowledge that *Edith Dobbedy* had Two Years ago the Locking-bone of her Hip diſlocated, and ſet a Twelvemonth afterwards; that ſhe continued in great Pain and Lameneſs; that ſhe had been confined entirely to her Bed from *Chriſtmas* laſt till *Lady day*, during all which Time ſhe had endured violent Pains in her Legs; that ſhe had been reduced ſo low, that her Death had been expected for ſome Time; and that ſhe was perfectly cured by *Glaſtonbury* Waters, and walks without Lameneſs.

Anne Gill, from *Briſtol*, aſſured me, that ſhe had had a violent Blow upon her Breaſt by a *Brute of a Husband*, which Breaſt broke out afterward all over into Pimples, that were red at Bottom and white at Top, out of which iſſued a briny Humour; beſides a large Wound almoſt under her Breaſt; ſo that her Nipple had entirely diſappeared, which, as ſhe told me, appears now when her Breaſt is wet, and diſappears when dry. The Pimples are all gone, and the Wound, within a very ſmall trifle, healed up. She never was with Child. And ſhe informed me that ſhe had purged and vomited violently with the Waters.

William Rice's Wife, from *Martock*, a disbanded Soldier, aſſured me that ſhe had had a Film over both her Eyes; that ſhe

was

was totally blind in one Eye, and could ſee but little with the other; and that ſhe was, by waſhing her Eyes with Water taken immediately from the *Bloody Well*, and drinking at the Shoot near *Chaingate* for Six Weeks, reſtored to a perfect Sight in both her Eyes. *N. B.* Notwithſtanding this Cure, I think the Water from this Place ought not to be applied to the Eyes before it be tried, without Effect, at the other Shoots, becauſe the Mineral here is ſo ſtrong, that it is very apt to inflame the Eyes.

Samuel Beachem, from *Windſcombe*, aſſured me that he had his Hip diſlocated above Two Years ago, and had endured Racks of Pain in it ever ſince; and that he was by drinking the Waters, without purging excepting by Urine, in ſeven Weeks Time, reſtored to perfect Eaſe.

Anne Tewbank, from *London*, aſſured me that ſhe had had a ſtubborn hot Humour, flowing in large Quantity, in one of her Eyes for upwards of Ten Months; and that by drinking the Waters, purging moderately, ſhe had been perfectly cured; but that by catching Cold the Humour was returned again.

Henry Shallis, from *Tiverton*, had a Film grown over one of his Eyes, of the ſame Colour with the Eye itſelf, ſo as not to be diſtinguiſhed from it; which Film, after Fourteen Days drinking and waſhing near *Chaingate*, fell quite off his Eye as he was waſhing it under the Shoot, ſo that he can now ſee pretty well. Several Perſons who were at the Shoot, beſides himſelf, aſſured me of the Truth of this Caſe.

Mary Benet aſſured me that ſhe had had a very ſtubborn Leproſy over her Face, Arms, Hips,

and Legs; that ſhe had been, at two different Times, Two Years at the *Bath* without Benefit; and that ſhe had drunk the Waters here for Two Months, which purged her much. I ſaw her Face, Arms, and Hands, and they appeared, within a Trifle, as if ſhe had never had a Leproſy; and ſhe aſſured me that her other Parts were almoſt as well thoſe I ſaw; ſo that ſhe ſeems to be in a fair Way to a perfect Cure.

Mary Jeffreys informed me that a Horſe fell upon her, which broke Two Bones in her Breaſt, and bruiſed her ſo very much, that ſhe had had, ever ſince that Time, a violent Pain in her Back, and all around her; that ſhe had been at *Briſtol* and *Bath* a conſiderable Time, to little Purpoſe; and that ſhe was eaſed of her Pain to a great Degree by the Waters here, without purging, in three Weeks. I ſaw her ſeveral Times ſince ſhe gave me the firſt Account of herſelf, and ſhe declared every Time that ſhe was better and better.

Mr. *Hunt*, from *Hampſhire*, aſſured me ſeveral Times, that he had had for eighteen Years a very ſtubborn hot Eruption all over him, very much reſembling, if not, a real Leproſy, cauſed, as he imagines, by taking hot Medicines for a partial Palſy; that he had been under the Care of Dr. *Mead*, and ſeveral other eminent Phyſicians in Town and Country; and that he had in three Weeks found more Benefit by the Waters here than by all the other Means he had ever try'd; and that he hopes, as the Eruptions ſeem to be in a drying Way, to receive a perfect Cure. *N. B.* He intends ſoon to bathe, which will, in all Probability, do him much Service.

Thomas Lily, from *Wiltſhire*, informed me, that he had been violently afflicted with the Gravel; and that he had found great Relief by the

Waters

Waters here, which purged him much; and that he now made Water freely, which he could not do before without a great deal of Pain.

N. B. One Mr. *Fear* aſſured me had found ſome Relief by the Waters under the ſame Complaint.

A Chairmaker's Daughter at the Sign of the *Chair*, in *Street*, near *Glaſtonbury*, had the *King's-Evil*, of a very terrible Sort, for a great many Years, and all the Means that Phyſicians, *&c.* could think of had been try'd without Effect; who is now perfectly cured by the Waters here. *N. B.* The Truth of this is known by Numbers of People, who have been to ſee her.

I have met with many, and heard of others, that find great Eaſe by drinking and bathing here under *Rheumatic* Complaints. A Child of Two Years of Age from *Briſtol* had the *Small-pox*, of a very extraordinary Sort, in the Beginning of *December* laſt, ſettled in his Arm, Face, Eye, and Head; his Arm had Five Bones taken out of it near the Elbow, ſo that you could ſee from Side to Side through the Wound, which Arm the Surgeons thought neceſſary to to cut off in *Feb.* but the Mother would not agree to it. His Head and Face had Eruptions all over, beſides a hot briny Humour, and a Pearl grew over the Pupil of his Eye. I ſaw his Arm ſo well cured that he could throw or ſwing it to and fro with Eaſe, and his Mother aſſured me that he lay and ſlept upon it as well as upon the other. His Eye is quite well, the Pearl being entirely removed, and his Head and Face dried up, and the Eruptions quite gone; and the Child is exceedingly briſk and lively by uſing the Waters here for leſs than Seven Weeks. *N. B.* I had heard much of this Child, and therefore found out the Houſe where his Mother and he lodge, and the Caſe exactly

as

as I have ſet is down; and asked the Mother if ſhe thought the Cure above the Skill of Surgeons, and ſhe told that ſhe believed that a Surgeon might have made a Cure of it in Time.

James Smith, lately diſcharged from the Guards, aſſured me that he had been greatly afflicted with the *Rheumatiſm*, and had had a *Leproſy* all over his Body; that a *Fever* fell to one of his Legs above nine Years ago; that his other Leg afterward broke out in the ſame Manner, ſo that he had, when he came to *Glaſtonbury*, forty two Holes in both Legs; and that by drinking and bathing here for a Month's Time he is in a fair Way to be cured of all his Complaints, his Leproſy being quite gone, all the Wounds in his Legs being healed up, and his rheumatic Pains almoſt removed. I ſaw his Diſcharge, which mentioned his Complaints, and his Legs quite dry and whole, but exceſſively red. *N. B.* He purged much for Three Days.

Theſe Caſes may ſuffice, in ſome Meaſure, to ſatisfy your Curioſity about the Waters of *Glaſtonbury*, which, had they been taken by a Phyſician or an experienced Apothecary, would have been much more to my Satisfaction as well as yours, as they muſt then have been more judiciouſly and particularly enquired into; and I make no Manner of Doubt, but that if any Perſon of Judgment and Leiſure would take upon him, for a whole Seaſon or two, to take an Account of every Perſon's Caſe, Age, and Habit of Body, at their coming to the Place, and obſerve and take an Account, every Week, of the Effect and Progreſs of the Waters upon them, a pretty juſt Judgment might in Time be formed what Caſes were probable Objects of Cure by theſe Waters, and what Caſes were not. I can't ſay but that I am very much concerned,

ned to ſee here, at preſent, ſo many miſerable Wretches from ſuch Diſtances, at ſuch Expences as they can by no means afford, without injuring themſelves and Families, upon whom no Waters, without an immediate Miracle, can poſſibly have any Effect; for you may ſee here many that are incurably blind and lame.—The Waters, I really believe, are capable of doing great Service to ſuch Eyes as are affected with Humours of any Kind, and ſuch as have Films on the Outſide, provided the Sight itſelf be inwardly not deſtroyed; for ſeveral Perſons here, who could ſcarcely ſee at all upon the Account of violent Humours and Films, have actually received muſt Benefit; and the Effects of the *Rheumatiſm* and *Bruiſes*, provided the Limb be not actually withered and dead, may poſſibly be greatly removed. I have obſerved, as I have already ſaid, this Water is an excellent *Salve*, agreeing almoſt with all Habits of Bodies; cleanſing and healing all manner of Ulcers & Wounds; and ſeldom failing in Eruptions of all Sorts. I could not meet with an Inſtance of a White-Swelling in the Knee cured, tho' there are a great Number of them to be ſeen here; and perhaps it is owing to their not bathing in the great Bath, the Water falling from the Shoot, and in the Trough under it, having not a ſufficient Body and Weight to operate upon ſo ſtubborn a Complaint; and I think that People in general are too much averſe to bathing here.

After all, if you come here, you will meet with a great Number of Inſtances in all Manner of Complaints, eſpecially in the *King's-Evil*, that receive no Benefit at all from the Waters. And to account for it, why one Man ſhould receive Relief, and another under the ſame Complaint

ſhould

ſhould not at all be benefited, muſt be left to learned and experienced Phyſicians.

It is Time for me now to beg that your Good-nature would diſpenſe with my tranſcribing what I have here ſcrawled out in a Hurry, and make a Shift to pick out the Words, as well as you can, amongſt the great Number of Blots and Interlineations that I could not well avoid in my preſent Situation; and give me Leave to hope to be much better ſatisfied by the curious Remarks and judicious Obſervations which your happy Talents and natural Temper will lead you to make, than I am by thoſe that I have made myſelf; and permit me to ſubſcribe myſelf, MADAM,

Your moſt obedt. & moſt humble Servt.

Glaſtonbury, June 15. 1751. J. DAVIES.

P. S. I muſt beg that you would be ſo good as to aſſure ſuch of your Acquaintance as ſhall ſee this Letter, and may doubt of the Truth of the Facts mention'd in it, that I could not poſſibly have any further View in it than that of communicating to others the beſt Information that I have been able to procure. As *Plympton*, whereto I belong, is almoſt 90 Miles from hence, I can't be thought to be at all concerned to promote its Intereſt in the leaſt. I might have pick'd up twice the Number of Caſes with much leſs Trouble, had I been diſpoſed to believe all that I heard; and I had collected more than I ſend you, as I thought upon good Authority; but found ſome Reaſons upon further Enquiry, and ſhewing them to other People, to doubt of the Truth of them. Here are now a great many, that have been here but a ſhort Time, that imagine they find ſome Benefit from the Water. —— I met with no Inſtance of any that are hurted by drinking the Water, tho' I have known ſeveral to drink it very freely, and have myſelf drank a Quart a Day, all the Time I have been here, ſome Times at *Chaingate*, and ſome Times at the Shoot next the *Bloody Well*; but if I was to tarry here any longer, I ſhould confine myſelf to drink it at *Chaingate*; neither do I think it prudent for People to drink it quite ſo freely before they have tryed it for ſome Time. I wiſh you, and all your Acquaintance that are determined to come here, good Succeſs; but take Care that you do not ſay that I perſuaded you; for I leave you entirely to your own Judgment, and only preſume to ſet before you all I know, and all I think of the Waters.

FINIS.